

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph appearing on Page 13, lines 15-24 with the following:

A¹
Figs. 3f-g illustrate an alternate embodiment of affixing tape 12 to the distal end 17a of needle 10. A detachable blunt tip 16a having a connecting post 15, attaches to the distal end 17a by means of a mounting hole 15a to accept post 15. Post 15 may be securely attached to hole 15a either by compression fit, mating threads or other convenient attachment methods. Distal end 17a further defines a groove 23 of varying depth to allow the end of tape 12 connected to post 15 to transition from within hole 15a to the exterior of needle 10. Along with the embodiment of Figs. 3a-e, this embodiment allows the surgeon to affix tape 12 to needle 10 just prior to the surgical procedure. One advantage is the ability to use a tape 12 constructed of, at least in part, a natural material 13.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1-6.

Sub B1
7. (Amended) A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising the steps of:

- Gr
- a) providing a curved needle-like element defining in part a curved shaft;
 - b) attaching a first end of a tape to the needle, the tape having an expandable chamber for receiving fluid therein;
 - c) passing the needle and tape into the body;
 - d) attaching a second end of the tape to the needle and passing the needle and tape into the body to form a sling around the urethra, whereby the expandable chamber is positioned substantially below the urethra;
 - e) leaving the tape implanted in the body; and